



Tempe Public Art



Ned Kahn

Sea of Waves I
(*Mare Undarum*), 2007

Corrugated sheet metal
and marbles

Location:

Tempe Center for the Arts
700 W. Rio Salado Parkway

Artist Website:

www.NedKahn.com

Photo: Craig Smith

Description: Thousands of one-inch diameter glass marbles were placed into the corrugated sheet metal decking of the marquee above the Tempe Center for the Arts' main entrance. The marbles are mounted into holes that are spaced four-inches on center and sealed with water-clear silicone sealant. An array of small mirrors mounted on stainless steel cables move in the wind and project patterns of moving light onto the marbles. The marbles light up like bulbs when these spots of sunlight hit them. The effect is like waves of electrical energy traveling through the marquee revealing the complex and beautiful patterns of the wind. At night, spotlights integrated into the design of the marquee illuminate the marbles. Kahn was "inspired by the image of rain in the desert, or the discovery of a pool hidden in the rocks of a seemingly dry stream with ripples of light reflecting onto the stone above...the incongruity of water in the desert."

Artist biography: Ned Kahn's creative impetus began in the San Francisco Bay Area, where, soon after graduating from the University of Connecticut, he became an apprentice to the late Frank Oppenheimer, legendary founder of the San Francisco Exploratorium. Kahn continued working at the Exploratorium as an exhibit designer for 10 years, where numerous works of his are still on display. Other art installations by Kahn can be found around the Bay Area, including 14 exhibits at the Chabot Space and Science Center and "Wind Portal" at the San Francisco International Airport BART station.

Funding: The project was funded through City of Tempe Municipal Arts Fund with the support of the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission.